**Department for Education – Extension to Virtual School Head Role**

**‘Promoting the educational outcomes for Children In Need and those on a Child Protection Plan’**

**Key Questions for your education establishment:**

* Are your staff aware that the main recommendation from the government’s Child In Need review 2019 extended the virtual school head role, to now include promoting educational outcomes for Children In Need and those on a Child Protection Plan? [Child In Need Review 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-children-in-need/review-of-children-in-need)
* Which member of your staff has oversight of these children and young people and is advocating for them in promoting their education?
* Do you know who these children are?
* If poor attendance is a concern, what actions are you taking to improve this?
* Do you have an identified Lead Governor for this cohort? It might sit with your Lead Governor for Safeguarding or with your Lead Governor for Children in Care.
* Is an overview of this vulnerable cohort being reported on at least annually to your Board of Governors, as you do for Children in Care? (We appreciate that this cohort can change frequently.)
* Are your staff aware that childhood trauma can adversely affect brain development in the growing child and that subsequent behaviours can be as a direct result of a child’s perceived threat of danger? Outward behaviour can mask the real emotions and possible gaps in brain development – what is going on underneath the tip of the behavioural iceberg? (This is a useful resource from Beacon House which provides an overview of developmental trauma which you may find useful as an introduction to your staff [Beacon House Developmental Trauma](https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Developmental-Trauma-Close-Up-Revised-Jan-2020.pdf) )
* Are you aware of the Peterborough Virtual School trauma training offer?

**How Peterborough Virtual School can help you:**

* We are available to offer advice and guidance to all settings although we do not hold a case-load or work directly with children or families.
* We are working to create a local authority strategic response across Health, Social Care and Education.
* In addition to our existing rolling 2-year Connected Communities trauma training, we are extending our trauma training offer to make it more accessible to a greater number of professionals.
* We are open to ideas from your setting in support of increasing educational outcomes for this cohort.

**Who is my contact in Peterborough Virtual School?**

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